

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A machine for packaging a plurality of containers into packages using flexible carrier stock, the machine comprising:

a feed drum adapted to feed the flexible carrier stock;

a jaw drum adapted to draw the flexible carrier stock from the feed drum and apply the flexible carrier stock to the plurality of containers, wherein the jaw drum is adapted to slide at an angle relative to a flow of the containers;

a turner/diverter device adapted to move and forward packages in a desired alignment; and

a controller adapted to electronically coordinate the movement of the feed drum, the jaw drum and the turner/diverter device so that an actual position of each of the feed drum, the jaw drum and the turner/diverter device corresponds with a commanded position of each respective device.

2. (Original) The machine of Claim 1 further comprising:

a cutoff wheel for dividing the carrier stock into packages.

Serial No.: 10/614,477

3. (Original) The machine of Claim 2 wherein the cutoff wheel further comprises:

a plurality of knives;

a coded marking system associated with each knife of the plurality of knives, the coded marking system adapted to indicate a proper arrangement of the plurality of knives based upon a configuration of the package.

4. (Currently amended) The machine of Claim 1 wherein the turner/diverter device further comprises:

a plurality of lugs; and

a coded marking system associated with each lug of the plurality of lugs, the coded marking system adapted to indicate a proper arrangement of the plurality of lugs based upon a configuration of the package.

5. (Original) The machine of Claim 4 wherein the plurality of lugs are interchangeably positionable in a plurality of lug mounts, each lug mount having a corresponding coded marking system.

6. (Canceled).

Serial No.: 10/614,477

7. (Original) The machine of Claim 1 further comprising:
a motor connected with the jaw drum, the motor automatically adjusting
a distance between each pair of jaws of a plurality of jaw pairs within the jaw drum.

8. (Original) The machine of Claim 1 further comprising:
a feed trough connected to the jaw drum for feeding the flexible carrier
stock to the jaw drum; and
a proximity sensor connected between the feed trough and the jaw drum
to detect a connection of the feed trough to the jaw drum.

9. (Currently amended) A machine for packaging a plurality
of containers using flexible carrier stock, the machine comprising:
a feed drum adapted to feed the flexible carrier stock;
a jaw drum adapted to draw the flexible carrier stock from the feed
drum and apply the flexible carrier stock to the plurality of containers;
a motor connected with the jaw drum, the motor automatically adjusting
a distance between each jaw pair of the plurality of jaw pairs within the jaw drum to
apply the flexible carrier stock to different carrier or container configurations; and

Serial No.: 10/614,477

a controller and an electronic drive adapted to coordinate the movement of the feed drum and the jaw drum in a manner dependent on a carrier or container configuration.

10. (Currently amended) The machine of Claim 9 further comprising:

a turner/diverter device adapted to move and forward packages in a desired discharge pattern, the turner/diverter device further connected with respect to the controller and the electronic drive to coordinate a speed of the turner/diverter device with a speed of the jaw drum and a speed of the feed drum.

11. (Original) The machine of Claim 9 wherein the jaw drum is adapted to move a first distance in a direction transverse to a flow of the flexible carrier stock and a second distance with the flow of the flexible carrier stock.

12. (Original) The machine of Claim 9 further comprising:
an orienter adapted to orient containers, the controller and the electronic drive electrically connected to the orienter to coordinate a speed of the orienter with a speed of the feed drum.

Serial No.: 10/614,477

13. (Original) The machine of Claim 9 further comprising:
a star wheel adapted to feed containers to the jaw drum, the star wheel
mechanically connected to the jaw drum.

14. (Original) The machine of Claim 9 wherein the jaw drum
further comprises:
an adjustment mechanism for adjusting the distance between each pair
of jaws in the plurality of jaw pairs.

15. (Original) The machine of Claim 9 further comprising:
one or more linear actuators associated with the jaw drum and adapted
to adjust a vertical height of the jaw drum.

16. (Canceled)

Serial No.: 10/614,477

17. (Currently amended) The machine of Claim 9 further comprising:

a feed trough connected to the jaw drum; and

a proximity sensor connected between the feed trough and the jaw drum, the proximity sensor preventing movement of the motor when the feed trough is improperly positioned.

18. (Currently amended) The machine of Claim 9 further comprising:

a turner/diverter device connected downstream of the jaw drum and adapted to forward packages in a desired discharge pattern, the turner/diverter device comprising a flexible belt having interchangeable lugs.

19. (Currently amended) A system for packaging a plurality of containers into packages using flexible carrier stock, the system comprising:

a feed drum feeding the flexible carrier stock;

a jaw drum positioned next to the feed drum and drawing the flexible carrier stock from the feed drum for application to the plurality of containers;

a cam positioned in the jaw drum for adjusting a distance between each jaw pair within the jaw drum;

Serial No.: 10/614,477

one or more motors with feedback connected with the cam for changing a physical configuration of the jaw drum based upon a size of the plurality of containers or a configuration of packages desired; and

an electronic drive connected with respect to the feed drum and the jaw drum for coordinating the movement of the feed drum and the jaw drum based upon the size of the plurality of containers or the configuration of packages desired.

20. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 19 further comprising:

a turner/diverter device moving forwarding and aligning the packages of containers, the turner/diverter device electronically coordinated with the feed drum and the jaw drum.

21. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 20 further comprising:

one or more lugs positioned within the turner/diverter device, the lugs adjustable between positions based upon a configuration of packages received from the jaw drum.

Serial No.: 10/614,477

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled).

24. (Original) The system of Claim 19 further comprising:
a motor connected with respect to the jaw drum and the drive system for
coordinating a spacing of jaw pairs within the jaw drum.

25-34. (Canceled).

35. (New) A machine for packaging a plurality of containers
using flexible carrier stock, the machine comprising:

a feed drum adapted to feed the flexible carrier stock;

a jaw drum adapted to draw the flexible carrier stock from the feed
drum and apply the flexible carrier stock to the plurality of containers, wherein the
jaw drum is adapted to move a first distance in a direction transverse to a flow of the
flexible carrier stock and a second distance with the flow of the flexible carrier stock;
and

a controller and an electronic drive adapted to coordinate the movement
of the feed drum and the jaw drum.

Serial No.: 10/614,477

36. (New) The machine of Claim 35 further comprising:

a turner/diverter device adapted to forward packages in a desired discharge pattern, the turner/diverter device further connected with respect to the controller and the electronic drive to coordinate a speed of the turner/diverter device with a speed of the jaw drum and a speed of the feed drum.

37. (New) The machine of Claim 35 further comprising:

an orienter adapted to orient containers, the controller and the electronic drive electrically connected to the orienter to coordinate a speed of the orienter with a speed of the feed drum.

38. (New) The machine of Claim 35 further comprising:

a star wheel adapted to feed containers to the jaw drum, the star wheel mechanically connected to the jaw drum.

39. (New) The machine of Claim 35 wherein the jaw drum

further comprises:

an adjustment mechanism for adjusting the distance between each pair of jaws in the plurality of jaw pairs.

Serial No.: 10/614,477

40. (New) The machine of Claim 35 further comprising:
one or more linear actuators associated with the jaw drum and adapted to adjust a vertical height of the jaw drum.

41. (New) The machine of Claim 35 wherein the jaw drum further comprises:

a motor connected with the jaw drum, the motor automatically adjusting a distance between each jaw pair of the plurality of jaw pairs within the jaw drum to apply the flexible carrier stock to different carrier or container configurations.

42. (New) The machine of Claim 41 further comprising:
a feed trough connected to the jaw drum; and
a proximity sensor connected between the feed trough and the jaw drum, the proximity sensor preventing movement of the motor when the feed trough is improperly positioned.

43. (New) The machine of Claim 35 further comprising:
a turner/diverter device connected downstream of the jaw drum and adapted to forward packages in a desired discharge pattern, the turner/diverter device comprising a flexible belt having interchangeable lugs.